

October 9, 2020

John Shiver, PhD
Senior Vice President, Global Research and Development
Sanofi Pasteur
1 Discovery Drive
Swiftwater, PA 18370

Dear Dr. Shiver

We write to thank you and Sanofi Pasteur for three recent developments related to vaccines. The first is the discontinuing of Poliovax which used the aborted fetal cell line MRC-5. The second is the change to ethical Vero cells in the production of Pentacel and Quadracel. The third is Sanofi-Pasteur's ongoing effort to develop a vaccine for COVID-19 that also does not rely on cell lines linked to elective abortion.

As you are probably aware, many Catholics and other people working in the health care field have a moral objection to using vaccines or medicines produced from cell lines linked to abortion. Many parents also share this objection. The updated versions of Pentacel and Quadracel vaccines, and hopefully your new COVID-19 vaccine, will go a long way toward alleviating our ethical concerns. We hope that our efforts to share the good news about these new vaccines will provide Sanofi Pasteur with further incentive to replace its Avaxim, Vivaxim, and Imovax vaccines—which rely on MRC-5—with new options that are ethically developed and produced. Doing so will not only help to overcome errors of the past, it will also allow Sanofi Pasteur to build upon the good will it is presently cultivating. Because of your efforts, thousands of people will now have no ethical objection to receiving Pentacel and Quadracel and hopefully they will also have an ethically produced COVID-19 vaccine.

In closing, we appreciate the significant investment of human effort, resources, and capital that are required to assure ethical and effective vaccine development. We are grateful that Sanofi-Pasteur is committed to this vital and important undertaking. We commend you for your efforts and support you in your ongoing work.

Sincerely,

Most Reverend Joseph F. Naumann
Archbishop of Kansas City, KS
Chairman, USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities

Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades
Bishop of South Bend
Chairman, USCCB Committee on Doctrine

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